

Message Text

SECRET

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 270188

EXDIS

SUBJECT: U.S.-LEBANESE RELATIONS

REFERENCE: BEIRUT 14623

1. FOLLOWING IS LETTER FROM SECRETARY TO FOREIGN MINISTER TAQLA. THIS IS A FINAL MESSAGE AND IS NOT REPEAT NOT TO BE USED AS AN ADVANCE DRAFT FOR CHECK OUT BY TAQLA. IN DELIVERING THIS LETTER YOU SHOULD TELL TAQLA WE HOPE IT WILL CLOSE OUR UNFORTUNATE CONTRETEMPS IN OUR RELATIONS AND CLEAR THE WAY FOR RETURN OF AMBASSADOR GODLEY TO BEIRUT. YOU SHOULD AGAIN MAKE CLEAR OUR VIEW THAT WITH DESPATCH OF THIS LETTER WE HAVE DONE AS MUCH AS COULD REASONABLY BE EXPECTED AND HAVE TAKEN ALL APPROPRIATE STEPS TO GIVE SATISFACTION TO PRESIDENT FRANGIE. YOU SHOULD ADD THAT SECRETARY HAS INSTRUCTED AMBASSADOR GODLEY TO GIVE TAQLA AND FRANGIE FULL BRIEFING ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORT. YOU SHOULD INFORM HIM THAT AMBASSADOR IS PREPARED FOR EARLY RETURN AND CONFIRM THAT AMBASSADOR WILL BE RECEIVED WITH THE RESPECT AND COURTESY DUE THE REPRESENTATIVE OF A GREAT POWER.

2. QUOTE: DEAR MR. MINISTER: THIS LETTER IS IN FOLLOW UP TO THE ONE I SENT YOU ON NOVEMBER 14 REGARDING THE
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UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT THAT OCCURRED IN CONNECTION WITH

PRESIDENT FRANGIE'S VISIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

I WANT TO INFORM YOU THAT WE HAVE PROCEEDED IMMEDIATELY WITH INVESTIGATION OF THE INCIDENT, AS PROMISED. FROM THAT INVESTIGATION IT DOES APPEAR THAT THERE WERE ERRORS OF COMMUNICATION, AND THAT INCORRECT PROCEDURES WERE FOLLOWED. APPROPRIATE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN WITH REGARD TO THOSE CONCERNED AND I HAVE DIRECTED THAT REMEDIAL MEASURES BE TAKEN TO ASSURE THAT AN OCCURRENCE NOT BE REPEATED. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD NEVER CONDONE TREATMENT OF A DISTINGUISHED AND HONORED VISITING CHIEF OF STATE SUCH AS PRESIDENT FRANGIE WHICH COULD IN ANY WAY BE CONSIDERED OFFENSIVE.

LET ME TELL YOU AGAIN HOW MUCH I REGRET HAVING BEEN UNABLE TO MEET WITH YOU WHILE YOU WERE IN NEW YORK. PRESIDENT FORD AND I PLACE THE HIGHEST VALUE ON OUR TRADITIONALLY CLOSE RELATIONS WITH LEBANON AND ARE KEENLY AWARE OF THE VITALLY IMPORTANT ROLE PLAYED BY LEBANON IN MIDDLE EASTERN AND WORLD AFFAIRS. I LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO KNOW YOU PERSONALLY AND TO BENEFIT FROM YOUR LONG EXPERIENCE IN DIPLOMACY. WITH WARM REGARDS. SINCERELY, HENRY A. KISSINGER UNQUOTE.

3. FYI. WE DO NOT FEEL IT APPROPRIATE TO NEGOTIATE TEXT WITH TAQLA BUT HE MUST OBVIOUSLY BE JUDGE OF HOW BEST TO HANDLE IT WITH FRANGIE. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT WE ARE DELIBERATELY IGNORING SUGGESTION THAT AMBASSADOR NOT RETURN UNTIL AFTER FIRST OF THE YEAR. IF HE PRESSES THIS IDEA, YOU SHOULD REPEAT WASHINGTON VIEW IN PARA 1 ABOVE BUT AGREE TO REPORT AGAIN TO WASHINGTON IF HE INSISTS. END FYI. KISSINGER

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